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Bethel Historical Society



Church Street from Railroad Street, c. 1930
Photo Credit — Merton T. Brown, Jr.

CHURCH STREET THROUGH THE YEARS

by Rosalind R. Chapman

Editor's Note: The following has been compiled by Mrs. Chapman with the assistance of many individuals to whom she is greatly indebted. A detailed history of Gould Academy buildings has been omitted here due to space limitations. Their history can be found in Francis Parkman's THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY published in 1976.

Church Street was laid out four rods wide in 1819 by the Oxford County Commissioners from the Common to the Congregational Church then on the banks of the Androscoggin near the Bridge Street home of Society life members Richard and Ruth Verville. At that time there were but three buildings on what is today Church Street: the home of Isaac Littlehale, a log cabin belonging to Lt. George Chapman across from the present Hanscom Hall and the school house near the juncture with Main Street. All the remaining area on the street was forested except for a frog pond across from the present Nazarene Church.

Gradually houses came to be build on the street, one by one, and through the years it has become one of Bethel's most attractive avenues. In 1960, the state highway commission designated Church Street as part of Route 5.

This survey begins at the Bethel Common end of the street. Number one is on the left facing toward Mayville and continues until number 15. Sixteen is across the street and runs back to the point of origin.

1981 PROGRAM ANNOUNCED FOR BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Program Committee of the Bethel Historical Society announced recently the schedule of monthly meetings for 1981: January 1, "So You Think You Know Bethel"; February 5, "Church Street Through the Years", Rosalind Chapman; March 5, "Telephone Service in the Bethel Area, 1902-1981", Ernest Perkins; April 2, Antique Guns, Alden Kennett, film, "Gunsmith at Williamsburg"; May 7, "Bethel's Architectural Heritage", George Allen; June 4, Haunted Houses in Bethel, Films, "In Search of Ghosts", "Blue Nose Ghosts"; July 2, Annual Picnic, Moses Mason Museum grounds, 6 p.m., Meeting with Waterford Historical Society, "Bethel-Waterford Connections"; August 6, Indian Raid Bicentennial Commemoration, slide lecture; September 3, Annual Meeting, Pot Luck Supper, 6:30 p.m.; October 1, Annual "What's It"; November 5, "Highlights of Newry's Past", Paula Wight; December 3, Annual Christmas Program.

1. Rev. Charles Frost, Minister of the Congregational Church, is the first one known to have lived in this house. It was during his tenure as minister that the West Parish Church was built in 1847. Prior to the building of this church, he had preached in the little church beside the Androscoggin River. He died in 1850, and his widow lived in the house until her death in 1859.

A family by the name of Holt followed the Frosts. In 1869, Mrs. Abbie Holt sold the house for \$1800 to Livingston G. Robinson. In 1872, Mrs. Emma Robinson sold to Abner Davis. His widow, Sarah Davis, sold to Marshall Davis in 1904. Later it was purchased by Liberty Holden. It became the Gould Academy principal's home, having been given to the Academy by Liberty E. Holden in 1905 with the stipulation that it be used "forever for academic and educational purposes." Frank E. Hanscom and his family lived here for many years.

When the new principal's home was built on the campus it was thought due to the conditions of the gift that the house should be returned to the Holden family. The family, however, presented it to the Hanscoms. After the deaths of "Professor" and Mrs. Hanscom it was occupied by their daughter, Margaret and her husband, Norvin Humphrey. The Humphreys ran an antique shop briefly and later sold the property to Wilbur Myers who sold it to Vance Richardson. When the Richardsons moved to Portland the Academy bought it in 1967 and made extensive renovations. Since that time it has been used for faculty

housing. Later occupants were Mr. & Mrs. John T. Grover, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Chandler, and Dr. and Mrs. Harry Dresser.

2. This house is one of the oldest in the village having been built about 1820. Phineas Streans and wife Betsey were the first owners. Mr. Stearns, who died in 1860, was a saddler and had a shop in the dooryard. The house remained in the Streans family for more than a hundred years. When Miss Lizzie Stearns died about 1930, it was bought by Frank E. Hanscom, Gould Academy principal. Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Baileys lived here for many years. In 1938, Kathryn Hanscom Bailey acquired the property from her father and in 1946 sold it to Frank Nary. Later owners included Robert Lucas and Harold Rolfe. It now belongs to Gould Academy and is part of the faculty housing, home for Society President Catherine Newell and her husband, Charles, who teaches at Gould.

3. In 1853, the Universalist Society built the Church for about \$2,000. Rev. Zenas Thompson was its first pastor, and he began his duties in June, 1854. About 1925 the Society became inactive and the Church was closed. In the 1950's a small group formed a religious society called "The Church of the Open Bible" and worshipped here. Later the Nazarene Church acquired the property and still maintains an active pastorate.

Memories of one minister of this church are recorded in a poem by Pearl Ashby Tibbetts:

THE PASTOR AND THE PITCHER

Nestled close among the mountains
Rests a peaceful little town
You can't beat it for its beauty
Search the country up and down
A church steeple points to heaven
From its place on this town's street
In the shadow of this spire
Is a boarding house, so neat!
To the town among the foothills
Came a preacher full of vim
Keen for life and all its duties
"Pep" just popping through his skin!
So that he might serve his people
Better dispense Love and Grace
This young minister so "peppy"
Sought this boarding lady's place.
He enjoyed her splendid cooking
Though she was of different creed
She just mothered the young parson
Catered to his every need.
To combat the winter's rigors
And to give a homelike cheer,
In his room, a tiny wood stove
Kept Jack Frost from nose and ear.
Now to lave his pious person,
(Such the best of us must do)
Bowl and pitcher graced his wash stand
Colonel Coolidge has one too!
And on mornings cold and frosty
For he liked the water hot
On the stove he'd place the pitcher
Laws of earthen ware, forgot
In the pitcher's virgin whiteness
There appeared a rift, quite long
So the lady told the parson
That this method was all wrong.

And she brought him a tin basin
For to heat the water in
But that parson was "pig-headed"
Just as obstinate as sin.
Still he'd use the earthen pitcher
Though it soon was brown and cracked
For a preacher of the gospel
Surely he, good judgement lacked.
One sad day she missed the pitcher
And she searched it everywhere
In the garden, up the chimney,
Couldn't find it, hide nor hair!
To the pastor she spoke mildly
Would he please her loss replace
Though alas, alas, another
Ne'er could fill her treasure's place.
"Yes, he would, he'd do it promptly"
Out he flew and soon came back
With a pitcher, new and shining.
(Neighbor close upon his track)
Gave the pitcher to the lady
And went on into his den.
Visitor picked up the pitcher
Scrutinized it close and then
Says she, "To our Church adjoining
Sure belongs this valued dish,
I'll return it, though to meddle
Is remotest from my wish".
And she bore the pitcher churchward
Placed it safely on its shelf.
While complacent, sat the pastor
Feeling sure he'd square himself.
Yet once more the boarding lady
Offered him a mild reproof.
Would he pay? From Parish pitchers
She sure held HERSELF aloof.
"Sure he'd pay! Now how much money
Would just such a pitcher cost?"
"Well, twould be almost a dollar"
Oh, her emphasis was lost!
In his pockets jingled money
On his lips a little tune,
He'd worked hard and prospered muchly
And vacation's coming soon.
On the day of his departure
For his needed, well-earned rest
Once again she mentioned "pitcher"
Wouldn't make herself a pest
But she'd like to have her money
For she worked hard every day
And she needed every penny
To help keep the wolf away.
Thrust his hand into his pocket
With an air and manner grand
Placed a measley HALF A DOLLAR
Into her extended hand
Then he doffed his hat politely
Grabbed his grip and rode away
She stood staring, for once speechless
Rooted to the spot, I'll say.
This is all, the tale is ended
You may say 'tis far from new
Men so dashing, yet so tricky,
What can trusting woman do?

4. James Walker sold the lot on which this house now stands to John Twitchell, one of the town's foremost house carpenters in 1854. (Mr. Walker also sold the Church lot to the Universalist Society.) The property remained in the

Twitchell family for many years. In 1887, it was sold to Salome G. Twitchell, who later sold to S. Porter Stearns. Rev. Frank E. Barton, pastor of the Universalist Church who came to Bethel in 1890 bought this house. After his tenure William E. Bosserman, the druggist, purchased it in 1912 and lived here as long as he and Mrs. Bosserman lived. Their daughter, Mildred Bosserman Brown, sold the property to Louis Vandenkerckhoven in 1948. He and his family lived here until 1960 when it was sold to Society member, Frank Vogt and it remains in the Vogt family, the stable having been renovated as an apartment.

5. Construction of the house now owned by Mrs. Harry Mason was begun in 1867 by Newton Grover but was finished by Pinkney Burnham, owner of a carriage shop on Elm Street (now Mill Hill).

In 1892, with his father-in-law (S. Porter Stearns), Ellery Park bought it and he and Mrs. Park lived here as long as they lived. Mr. Park, a very prominent man in town, was a lawyer in partnership with Addison E. Herrick. He also was a Gould Academy trustee for many years, associated with the Bethel National Bank and a pillar of the Universalist Church. Mr. Park's daughter, Muriel (Mrs. Harry Mason) spends her summers here.

6. The West Parish Congregational Church was built in 1847, when members of the Church separated into two parishes: one in the village, the other in Mayville.

After the death of Rev. Garland, minister of the Mayville Church, and the construction of the Androscoggin River bridge, parishioners of the Mayville Society reunited with their former church.

Garland Memorial Chapel was added to the building in 1897. Shortly after the dedication the steeple fell. It was replaced many years later with a gift from William Bingham II to the Congregational Church in 1937. Mr. Bingham commissioned the famous Maine architect, John Calvin Stevens of Portland to replace the steeple and oversee interior and exterior work. Herbert Swan and Frank Trimback helped with this project.

7. On the site of the present Gould Academy Principal's home was the house of John Kimball. It was next owned by Horace Andrews, a carriage maker. He sold it to Gould Academy, and in 1927 it was purchased by Hugh Thurston who had it moved to the corner of Summer and Elm Street. Mr. Thurston had movers from Berlin, N.H. handle the project of moving. When the house had been moved as far as the middle of Summer Street the movers unexpectedly left the job. He couldn't find anyone to finish the moving nearer than Boston, so James Spinney who had been working on the project offered to go ahead with it, which he did. This became the first of many buildings moved by Mr. Spinney in the Bethel area.

In 1935, Mr. Thurston sold this property back to Gould Academy with the option to live there the rest of his life.

Published quarterly by the Bethel Historical Society, Stanley R. Howe, Editor. Please address all inquiries and suggestions to Editor, Bethel Historical Society Newsletter, Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As Society president, I wish to call your attention to the very special event set for August 1 & 2, 1981 in Bethel — the 200th Anniversary of the last Indian Raid in New England which took place on August 3, 1781 at Sudbury Canada, now Bethel. The Society has already highlighted the event by using photographs of previous Indian Raid celebrations (1881 & 1931) in our 1981 calendar which is still available. The past celebrations had their own unique features -- dramatics, exhibits, parades, special meals, crowds, pageants, etc. The steering committee for this year's celebration is busy planning for a commemoration which will appeal to area residents and visitors alike. I hope that all of our members and friends will take an active part in some aspect of the weekend. Much help is needed prior to the celebration as well as during and after the festivities. Don't wait to be asked -- volunteer now by contacting the Society office and help make August 1 & 2, 1981 a high point in Bethel's history!

Catherine Newell

In 1937, he moved to Vernon Street and the house was used for faculty housing until it was razed to make way for Davidson Hall.

The new Headmaster's home was begun in 1930 and finished in 1931. Percy Crane, Assistant Headmaster and his family were the first to occupy it. They lived here until 1936. After the retirement of Frank E. Hanscom as Principal, the succeeding Headmasters of the Academy have been in residence. The house was originally of Dutch Colonial style but in 1958, was remodeled to match the style of the other Gould buildings. One of the other changes was the painting of the exterior brick. Today it is the home of Society members Donald and Dorla Fudge and family

8. In 1923 Gould Academy bought the land where Gehring Hall stands today from Miss Mary Chapman, daughter of Gilman Chapman who built his house here in 1871. In 1880 Mary's brother, John was living here. It was moved to the corner of Elm and Summer Streets and used for Gould Academy housing until it was torn down when Bingham Auditorium was built in 1963. Mr. Leroy Hamlin who worked for Gould lived there for many years.

The "Marian True Gehring Student's Home", now known as Gehring Hall was opened for students in 1925.

Alumni Athletic Field, a vacant lot, was purchased by the school in 1909. After the work of clearing, plowing, and grading (much of it done by the students) the field was ready for its first baseball game in the spring of 1910. It was later enlarged and landscaped in 1938.

9. Below the athletic field there stood a house occupied by J. M. Seavey in 1880 (probably built by him). Mr. Seavey sold to Fred Douglass; in 1919 Mr. Douglass sold to Harry Hutchinson. The Hutchinson family lived here until 1938 when Gould Academy acquired the property. The house was moved to make way for an enlarged athle-

tic field in connection with the new field house dedicated in 1941. The house was purchased by Abner Kimball and moved to the west shore of Songo Pond close to Route 5 and sold to David Stuart. The moving of the house was done by James Spinney.

10. In 1938, when plans were being formulated for the erection of the field house, a small building which was back of the field near the Hutchinson House was bought by Norris Brown for \$100, moved to Clark Street and renovated, becoming a portion of his present dwelling. It had previously been occupied by Mrs. Odecia Foster, mother-in-law of Harry Hutchinson.

The moving was accomplished with three trucks pulling it down Church Street across Railroad Street up Main and down Vernon Street. Here it was taken across the field of Marvel Hanscom (now Denison's). Thomas Brown was perched on the ridge pole holding up any wires in the way. Mr. James Spinney did the moving for \$100.

11. Below the Hutchinson house was a house erected by Ebenezer Richardson in the 1870's. Mr. Richardson's son, Newton E. and his family lived here until 1923 when they traded houses with Henry Hastings who lived in Mayville. Mrs. Hastings was Mr. Richardson's daughter. She sold it in 1936 to Henry Enman who sold to Gould Academy in 1938 at the time the field house project was begun. The house was razed, the clapboards taken off the building by Roy Blake and put on his barn.

12. A house below the Hastings was built by Horace Foster, who was one of Bethel's lamp lighters. Sarah Abbott sold the property to John Conner in 1888. In 1898 it was purchased by John A. Twaddle. Mr. Twaddle sold his property to H. Sidney Jodrey. In 1916, Phillip Chapman acquired the property of Mr. Jodrey and held it until 1919 when he sold to Cleo Russell who lived there until 1922 when she sold to Guy Morgan. Mr. Morgan lived here until 1938 when Gould Academy purchased the property. The house, purchased by Henry Flint, was moved to Chapman Street. Later it was sold to Arthur Garber who subsequently traded houses with Ray York. His widow lives there today.

13. An item in the "Oxford Democrat" for February, 1892 recorded that \$2000 had been subscribed toward making a butter factory in the village. Later that summer, mention is made in the "Democrat" that A. Ward had sold a lot to the Bethel Dairying Company for \$200 and the foundations were being laid, "Benjamin Bryant in charge." In the fall the machinery was installed in what was later known as the Bethel Creamery.

The following description was found in the "Bethel News" from January 6, 1904: "The creamery is equipped with a water-power churn, with the capacity of producing two hundred pounds of butter at each churning, with an average of three churnings a day, a portion of the product is molded into pound cakes, neatly stamped and wrapped in paraffine paper. That not intended for home consumption is packed in boxes and crates for shipment. Connected with the creamery is a model refrigerator and an ice

house, with a sufficient capacity for the use of the creamery and the town patrons during the summer season."

Mr. Chester Wheeler was the manager of the Bethel Creamery. When it ceased operation just prior to 1920, Mr. William Bragg sold Grand Union products here until his death in 1927. The property was then sold to Mabel Beckler from Mr. Bragg's estate. About 1930, the True Eames family operated a restaurant in this building. In 1934, Mrs. Beckler sold the site to George S. Chapman. The next year, Percy Brinck bought the property and opened a restaurant which he operated for several years. In 1938, Brinck sold to Gould Academy and the buildings were torn down.

14. William Bragg owned this land and building until 1919 when he sold to Harry C. Crockett of Woodstock. The building was occupied by Ray E. Crockett who operated Crockett's Gagage beginning in 1919. An advertisement in the "Oxford County Bethel Citizen" in 1921 advertised Willys-Knight and Overland automobiles. In 1922, another advertisement in the same paper stated that he was installing radios. Later with the advent of television, Mr. Crockett was the first one in town to feature them, placing sets in his garage window so that people could admire the new wonders of television. In 1929, he began flying and later obtained a pilot's license. For many years "BETHEL" was painted in large letters on the roof of his garage so that pilots of planes could get their bearings. The property sold to Gould Academy in 1961 when the intersection at the end of the street was changed and the garage was demolished.

15. On the corner of Church and Railroad Street was a large house owned by James D. Dudley having been built in 1877. Later it was purchased by Fritz Tyler. Mr. Tyler never lived here but rented it for several years. In 1922, Albert F. Brooks bought it and he and Mrs. Brooks operated a boarding house. In 1936, it was sold to John Orino of Rumford who rented it to various tenants until 1961 when the intersection was changed. Among those who rented the property were Ralph Berry, the Daley family, Virgie McMillin and Wallace Coolidge. Lester Enman also operated a barbershop here for a short time.

From here the street went up over a narrow bridge that spanned the railroad tracks and was the site of many traffic accidents until the construction of the cloverleaf in 1961.

16. The Gould Academy faculty house currently occupied by James Owen was built circa 1890 by Jacob Holt. Owners have included Fred Douglass, Fred Hall, Mrs. Hattie Hutchinson and Earl Hutchinson.

17. On the lot adjacent to the Owen residence was a filling station erected by the Farmington Oil Co. in the early 1940's. At that time it was operated by Adney Guernsey and Everett Marshall. It continued in business for a short time but was closed for about two years and purchased in 1947 by Stanley Gallant who operated a Texaco station until he sold it to Gould Academy in 1960 when it was razed.

18. The house now occupied by Burt Hejduk of the Gould staff was built for George Thompson in 1924. The Thomp-



East Bethel School, c. 1911, Eva Glines Herrick, teacher.
First Row: L. to R. — Hezekiah Merrill, Leslie Thompson, Lester Coolidge, Alphonse Thompson, Claire Swan Holman, Velma Brown Davis, Myrtle Swan Babb, Dorothy Haines Abbott.

Second Row: — Floyd Coolidge, Robert Hastings, Florus Merrill, William Hastings, Myrtle Bartlett Wing, Bertha Brown _____, Leo Bartlett, Homer Bartlett, Nelson Bartlett.

Third Row: — Frank Bean, Sybil Coolidge Farrar, Hattie Knight, Gertrude Adamson, Bernice Haines Noyes, Lena Thompson Brackett, Ethel Cole Cummings, Marion Cole Brown, Ronda Bartlett Powers, Willis Bartlett.

Photo Credit: Barbara Herrick Brown

sons lived here as long as they lived. After Mrs. Thompson's death in 1964, it was purchased by Gould Academy and continues to be used for faculty and staff housing.

Previous to the construction of the house this lot was the site of summer Chatauquas held in town for several years.

19. At the corner of Church and Summer Streets stood a large white house built about 1870, first occupied by Dr. John Grover's widow. After her death in 1880, Dr. John A. Twaddle bought it. Doctor and Mrs. John Twaddle, and Dave Brown, Mrs. Twaddle's brother, lived here for many years. When Dr. Twaddle died in 1918, his son, Dr. Widd Twaddle moved here from Fryeburg and took over his father's practice. In 1927, he bought the Purington house on Main Street, but his mother, Harriet, continued to live here until her death. In 1938, the house was bought by Gould Academy and razed previous to the building of the new Holden Hall.

This lot also included the land on which Davidson Hall stands, built in 1970 and dedicated the following year.

20. Until the present Holden Hall was built, Summer Street extended through the campus area, and on the corner opposite the Twaddle house mentioned above stood a large house built about 1870 for Goodwin R. Wiley, the town druggist.

In 1907, when it was becoming a problem to find housing for the increasing number of out-of-town students in private homes, Mr. Liberty E. Holden provided funds to acquire the Wiley property and to make necessary alterations for a dormitory. This dormitory was dedicated in 1909 as Holden Hall. It housed girls in the house section and boys in the remodeled barn until Gehring Hall was built and the girls moved to the new dormitory, making more room for the boys. This building was used until the new Holden Hall replaced it in 1938. The dining room for the boarding students was between the girls' and boys'

sections. Beneath it was a large room where girls who "boarded themselves" could get their own meals.

21. The original William Bingham Gymnasium was begun in 1921 and dedicated in 1922. The first Commencement was also held here in 1922 instead of in Odeon Hall. By 1925, it became necessary to enlarge it by 25 feet at the rear to make a larger floor and to accommodate a new stage with better lighting facilities. By the early 1960's the building had become inadequate. At this time the gym was renovated and the auditorium plus additional office space were added to the front of the building. The new Bingham Hall was dedicated in 1963 with United States Representative Frances T. Bolton of Ohio, sister of William Bingham II and a generous donor to the building's cost, present.

22. The original Gould Academy building came into being in 1836, upon the incorporation of Bethel Academy as passed by the Maine Legislature on January 27, 1836. The Board of trustees, meeting in May, voted to have a building ready by September 1 of that year. Construction was begun immediately and school opened in the middle of September. This building was replaced by one in 1881 which cost \$4000. A new colonial facade was added to this second building in 1921 and it remained there until dedication of the new Hanscom Hall in 1934. Prior to the opening of school in September, 1933, the old building was moved to the edge of the street and was used here on a temporary foundation until the opening of the spring term in 1934 when it was razed. Basketball games on the top floor of the old Academy building were a challenge with posts holding up the roof scattered through the room, padded and wrapped with bunting to protect the players.

23. According to a 1858 Atlas map, a house bordered High Street adjacent to the Academy building, owned by A. Merrill. In 1880, it was then owned by Charles H. Grover and was eventually moved to High Street (probably between 1880 and 1890) now owned by Mrs. Geneva McCoy.

24. A house built by George H. Robertson was on the corner of High Street and Church Street, as early as 1858. He was still living here in 1881. Later owners included Philip Chapman who sold in 1922 to Leslie Davis. The Davis family lived here until 1926 and in 1929 sold it to William R. Chapman for rental housing. Many families lived in this two-family house including those of John Carter, Earl Palmer, Henry Flint, Frank Hunt, Sidney Dyke, Benjamin Brown, Charles Swan and Patrick Grenier.

In 1951 Gould Academy acquired the property and razed the building to make way for the Walters Infirmary constructed in 1955.

25. Captain Isaac Littlehale was living here in 1830, his dwelling having been moved down from the lot where the Bethel Library is today. He acquired it from Frederick Ballard, his father-in-law, and had it moved to its present site where he enlarged it. On the 1858 Atlas map it was marked "Eveleth". (Mr. Eveleth operated a store on Main Street for a short time.) Later in 1880 it was owned by Moses T. Cross, who operated the store at the corner of Main and Church Streets. After he died Gilman P. Bean, Mr. Cross's son-in-law, lived here and also ran the store.

Miss Annie Hamlin followed the Beans, living here until her death in the 1930's. During this time Dr. Harry Wilson also lived here and had an office in the building. Miss Hamlin deeded the property to Frank E. Hamlin of Berlin, N.H.; in 1937 the property was sold to Fred A. Hamlin. Gould Academy bought the property in 1938, and has used it since as faculty housing. Gould faculty members living here have included Ordell Anderson, Edmond Vachon, Gayle Foster, Theodore Emery, George Bowhay, Samuel Bigelow, Linda Wade, Marvin Ouwinga, and Stephen Chandler.

26. The Dorothy Moore house was built sometime in the 1840's. In 1855 it was bought by George W. Chapmas who lived here until 1862. Miss Phebe Buxton then owned it, having acquired it after the death of her mother, Mr. Chapman's second wife. Mrs. Horatio Upton was the next owner and after Mrs. Upton's death the house was purchased by the family of the present owner, Mrs. Dorothy Moore in 1923.

On a window in the ell of the house is etched on one of the panes: J. Bradley Locke -- William R. Eames -- October 20, 1852; also Henry

Speculation leads one to believe that perhaps these people were boarding in the house and attending the Academy as they were both young men at the time. Locke settled in the west and Eames was a farmer at North Bethel.

27. The Timberlake house was built by Benjamin Freeman in 1859. An article in the "Bethel Courier", dated July 29, 1859 read: "Benjamin Freeman has nearly completed a fine residence on Church Street. It is built in the Italianate style after a plan drawn by our skilled artist, Mr. Thomas Holt." It was occupied in 1861 by Dr. Charles Gordon. Dr. Gordon's son and daughter inherited the house, living here as long as they lived. Fred died in 1940. Mrs. John Gill was the next owner, followed by her daughter, Abigail Buswell. She sold to D. Grover Brooks who in turn sold to Beryllum Corp. John Carter was the next owner. After Mr. Carter's death, it was sold to Samuel H. Timberlake, the current owner. Shaker style chairs and other furniture are now manufactured here in the barn.

28. This house was built by Dr. Almon Twitchell (1811-1859) around 1840. Dr. William B. Lapham, author of the Bethel History and other histories of Oxford County towns, trained here under Dr. Twitchell. It has always remained in the family through Dr. Twitchell's daughter, Anna French (1856-1938), her daughter, Alice Smith (1887-1973) and now by her daughter, Marcia Hamilton. In 1858, Dr. Twitchell had a small building which he used as an office on the now vacant lot between his house and the one now owned by Albert Cotton.

29. This house was built about 1865. In 1880 it was occupied by the widow of Dr. R. G. Wiley. Other owners included Mrs. Lottie Bridges from England who bought the house from Abner Davis in 1888. Ella M. Young sold to James Hutchins in 1911. In 1920, Horatio N. Upton sold to Adelmar J. Stearns, who added an apartment on the second floor. Hanover Dowell Company owned it after Mr. Stearns' death. In 1947, Hanover Dowell Company sold

the property to Albert F. Cotton, the present owner. Today the front part of the building is occupied by the Kendall Insurance Inc.

Tenants have included Stella Eames, the Newell family, Martin Colby, George Gilbert, Arthur Guernsey, Mrs. Shirley Chase, Hilda Donahue, and Howard Donahue.

30. A small building built by Roger Reynolds was placed adjacent to Cotton's Restaurant in the mid-1940's. Here he ran a jewelry shop for a short time. Then he sold the building to Albert Cotton who owned the site. Mr. Cotton rented it to Maurice McInnis who operated a shoe repair service for a few years. Subsequently, the building was sold to Leland Brown who had it moved to a lot on Paradise Hill, where it is now occupied by Manning Chapman.

31. The first school building in town was here soon after the beginning of the nineteenth century. On the 1858 map it was marked as owned by William Gerrish, probably being used as a store. Lucas operated a store here in 1880. He was followed by R.E.L. Farwell in 1889. Mr. Farwell soon moved his business to Main Street but in 1904 he had moved back to this location. S. S. Greenleaf had an ice cream parlor in the early 1920's here. Alphonse Vandekerckhoven also ran a store at this location. Mrs. W. L. Farwell assisted by her daughter, Mrs. Lena Wight bought the store in 1926. They ran a grocery store, ice cream parlor and restaurant. Albert Cotton purchased the establishment in 1945 and continued to operate the store and restaurant here until Harry Kuzyk bought it in 1963. The Kuzyks remodeled the building and operated the business (Campus Malt Shop) for several years before selling to Harold Young (Young's Restaurant). Later the George Gilberts operated the Village Restaurant here. After Mrs. Young's death in 1973 it was sold to William Lynch. During his occupancy the building was gutted by fire. It was subsequently purchased by Wilbur Myers and remodeled into two apartments.

Just beyond building #31 was an alley known as "Cat Alley" which was used by everyone as a short cut to the Post Office and Main Street. Every few years a sign was put up at its entrance stating it was not a public thoroughway. If this was not done, after a certain length of time whoever owned it might jeopardize their property rights because of deed restrictions.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND

The annual appeal for endowment funds in the June issue of the Courier has resulted in contributions from the following:

Bethel Auto Sales
Ruth Dobson in memory of Edmund Maines
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tewksbury
Rachel Bean Perkins
Margaret Joy Tibbetts

Contributions in any amount will be accepted throughout the year and are tax deductible. Please ensure the future of the Society by sending yours today to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. Checks should be made payable to the Bethel Historical Society.

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NAMES COMMITTEE

The Trustees of the Society have approved the following for committees in 1980-1981: Building, Donald B. Eddy (chairman), E. M. Quinn, Julia Brown, Richard Verville; Garden and Grounds, Sudie Vachon (chairman), Gertrude Hutchins, Hazel Wheeler, Arthur Cummings, Margaret Tibbetts, Jane Vogt, Harry Kuzyk; Education and Research, Alvin Barth, Jr. (chairman), George Allen, Rosalind Chapman, Elizabeth Smith, Virginia Kelly, Judith Haskell, Randall Bennett, Sue Wight, Kurt Brown; Membership, E. M. Quinn (chairman), Marge Noll, Barbara D. Brown, Jean Owen; Program, Helen Morton (chairman), Geraldine Howe, Edith Eypper, Richard Fraser, Jean Ness, Karen Brown, Ernest Perkins; Museum, Judith Haskell and Marge Noll (co-chairman), Floribel Haines, Richard Fraser, Agnes Haines, Carol Gersen, Frances Harding, Nell Valentine, Rosalind Chapman, Barbara H. Brown; Investment, Margaret Tibbetts (chairman), Edmond Vachon, Royden Keddy, Donald Bennett, Louise Lincoln, Wilfred Conary, John Head, ex-officio Catherine Newell; Special Projects, Carolyn Brooks (chairman), Sarah Stevens, Persis Post, Sylvia Wight, Julia Brown, Edna York; Genealogical, Alden Kennett (chairman), Floribel Haines, Judith Barker, Gloria Snyder, Nancy Mercer, Agnes Haines, Jean Ness, Mabel Kennett; Craft, Mary Isham, Hope Tibbetts, Mary Beth Isham, Catherine Newell; Music, George Allen, Arlene Brown, Arlene Walker, Edward Hastings, Mary Valentine, Stephen Seames; Art, Catherine Newell, Helen Morton, Sue Wight, Katherine Bennett, Donald Bennett, Mary Isham; Indian Raid Bicentennial, Ernest Perkins, Ronald Snyder, Alden Kennett, Donald Bennett, Phyllis Roberts, Arlene Brown, E. M. Quinn, Helen Morton.

Any Society member wishing to serve on any Committee should notify the Society Director at 824-2908 or at any regular meeting.

IN MEMORIAM

Died December 3, 1980 Grace V. Merrill, a generous donor. Mrs. Merrill had been a member since the early days of the Society.

Died Benjamin Butler of Farmington, Maine, December 13, 1980. Mr. Butler, a lawyer, judge, State Senator, devoted local historian and well-known throughout the State for his interest in history and historic preservation had been a member of the Society for a number of years.

Join the Bethel Historical Society dedicated to preserving and interpreting the local past.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) free admission to the museum | (5) quarterly newsletter |
| (2) special discounts at museum store | (6) reduced course fees |
| (3) preferred rate for meeting room rental | (7) voting rights in the Society |
| (4) special library and archival privileges | (8) special invitations to Society occasions |

(Please Print)

Name

Address

Signature

Please check appropriate category and send your remittance to: Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| -----Sustaining \$2.50 (Individual) | -----Life over 55 years \$50.00 single |
| -----Contributing \$10.00 | -----Life over 55 years \$75.00 couple |
| -----Patron \$25.00 | -----Life under 55 years \$100.00 single |
| -----Students (under 18 years) \$1.00 | -----Life under 55 years \$150.00 couple |

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Catherine Newell, *President*
 Donald G. Bennett, *Vice President*
 Edith Eaton Eddy, *Secretary and Clerk*
Board of Trustees
 E. Louise Lincoln, *Treasurer*
 Judith E. Haskell, *Trustee to September, 1981*
 Margaret Joy Tibbetts, *Trustee to September, 1982*
Chairman, Board of Trustees
 Helen Morton, *Trustee to September, 1983*

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

There are currently seventy-two life members in the Society. The latest additions are:

Olive Head, West Bethel, widow of Paul B. Head, has long been active in community and church affairs.

Daisy LeClair, Bethel, is a retired postal employee and widow of Syl LeClair.

John and Fumiko Head, operate an international philately business from their home on Vernon Street, once the home of General Clark S. Edwards, prominent Civil War commander and the Democratic candidate for governor of Maine in 1886.

John Auchmoody, Bryant Pond, was long associated with Old Sturbridge Village and Shaker Village at Canterbury, New Hampshire.

Isabel T. Coburn, Portland, is a graduate of Gould Academy, Class of 1938.

Margaret Herrick Oakes, Augusta, generous donor and author of a popular "Courier" article on Broad Street is the daughter of the late Judge Addison E. Herrick of Bethel and a graduate of Gould Academy.

Margaret Hanscom Humphrey, daughter of longtime Gould Academy principal Frank E. Hanscom, is retired and living in Portland.

Florine E. Bowden, a Gould Academy graduate and Bethel native lives in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

Lt. Col. and Mrs. Norman Clanton of Scott Air Force Base in Illinois own the Mayville house that once belonged to the nationally famous music critic Henry T. Finck.

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hosterman are both retired and live in West Bethel.

HARPSICHORD RECITAL AT MOSES MASON HOUSE

Audley Green, who has played for audiences both in the United States and Australia, held a harpsichord recital Sunday afternoon, October 18, 1980, in the meeting room of the Dr. Moses Mason House. Ms. Green, who has performed widely on the east coast in solo recitals, with chamber music groups, in festivals and in community programs as an artist-in-residence performed works by Mozart, Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, Bach, Joplin, May Aufderheide, James Scott, Willard Palmer and Scarlatti to an audience of approximately sixty.

The recital in the meeting room of Moses Mason Museum was a first attempt to introduce historical music into the museum's continually expanding range of activities. The space was ideally suited for the intimate environment originally associated with the harpsichord and the enthusiastic response to this pioneering effort means that other musical events will be scheduled in the future.

Following the recital, members of the museum committee, Judith Haskell, Floribel Haines, and Agnes Haines served refreshments and conducted candlelight tours of the museum. The recital was planned and managed by music committee members Mary Valentine and Arlene G. Brown with the assistance of Andrea Howe in selling tickets.

MUSEUM NEEDS

Periodically it has been useful to include a list of items needed for the Moses Mason House in order to complete its furnishing or to provide a greater variety of choice in its furnishing. The house is currently furnished with items relating to the period of Dr. Mason's life (1789-1866) and if anyone has items that they wish to donate which would be appropriate, please let the Society know by calling 824-2908 or writing P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. It is well to remember that the items may be given in memory of someone and are a tax deductible gift. The most critical needs are:

Andirons, dry sink, carpets, candle holders, paintings and mirrors, chest of drawers, silver tea set, kitchen clock, chairs, china and glass.

Bethel Historical Society
Box 12
Bethel, Maine 04217

EDITOR'S CORNER

The response to the "Courier" becoming a quarterly was most gratifying and I hope its quality can be maintained and perhaps enhanced in the future.

Since four issues rather than two will require much additional effort, I am urging that more people become involved in researching and writing articles for consideration. The topics to be covered in local history are indeed limitless. As a beginning, I am particularly interested in persons willing to undertake a site by site survey of a particular part of town as featured in the current issue. Already individuals are committed to work on Chapman, Mason and Spring streets, but other sections of Bethel and surrounding towns should also be included. Let's have some volunteers!

Other topics will of course be welcomes, temperance in Bethel would be a good subject -- any takers?

SRH

BOOK REVIEW

Florence E. O'Connor, The Ancestors and Descendants of Asa Freeman Ellingwood and Florilla (Dunham) Ellingwood. Published by the author, West Paris, Maine, 1979.

Florence E. O'Connor's genealogy of the Ellingwood and Dunham families is an important addition to the history of a significant Western Maine family. Reading her skillfully researched genealogy is both a pleasure and a rewarding experience as each section is carefully documented and she has included so many engaging details. How interesting it is for this reviewer to learn the background of Aked Ellingwood, the founder of the Bethel News in 1895, forerunner of the Oxford County Bethel Citizen or to see so many familiar names as Ellingwood descendants! The book also contains some fine family photographs and an excellent index which makes it very easy to use. For those with a connection to this family or with the genealogical "bug" this book is especially worthwhile. Anyone involved in the local history of this region is indebted to Mrs. O'Connor for this useful contribution.

SRH